

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 410, 7 January 2025

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <https://seapn.org.uk/events/>.

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

“Exploring wellbeing: experiences of museum professionals of colour”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/workforce/wellbeing-research/exploring-wellbeing-report/#msdyntrid=IWqrwJOJqD5qujTdFtiu2whGpXGPTmjmhMAf8fSHH1Y>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 17 Dec 2024)

Important new report:

“In 2022, we conducted sector-wide research to identify the current state of individual wellbeing within the workforce, and to identify factors affecting wellbeing at individual, organisational and sector levels. The research informed the launch of a wellbeing campaign in 2023, including a variety of related initiatives and activities.

However, within the research, museum professionals of colour were underrepresented. To address this, two discovery discussion sessions were held in June and July 2024 to provide a platform for museum professionals of colour to deeply explore and reflect on their individual and collective experiences.

The goal was to gain a greater understanding of specific issues and contexts, to assess what these mean for the sector, and to identify how the MA can effectively support the individuals concerned. This report outlines the insights gained from the discovery discussions and offers recommendations to enhance our ongoing commitment to create inclusive and diverse museums.”

As the report found (see:

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/workforce/wellbeing-research/exploring-wellbeing-report/recommendations/>):

“Based on the analysis of the discovery discussions’ responses, several critical themes and issues have been identified, including systemic racism, lack of representation in leadership positions, and inadequate support for career development and wellbeing. To address these challenges and foster a more inclusive and supportive environment, the following five areas of action (with associated recommendations for practice) have been identified:

- Foster a safe and inclusive environment
- Recognise and address barriers to inclusion
- Allocate leadership responsibility

- Monitor and evaluate wellbeing initiatives
- Sector-wide standards and initiatives

These recommendations are provided for organisations, managers and the sector, and are designed to be high-level so that they can be applied to most organisations regardless of size or governance structure.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Learning from the last four years: Tracking the impact of KS1 school closures on pupils’ attainment and social skills”

https://www.nfer.ac.uk/blogs/learning-from-the-last-four-years-tracking-the-impact-of-ks1-school-closures-on-pupils-attainment-and-social-skills/?utm_campaign=nd_jun_24&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&dm_i=7IN9,80VC,16YTPV,ZETN,1

(Source: *NFER Direct*, Dec 2024)

Very useful brief summary of a research project which looked at the impact of Covid, via school closures, on primary school students.

Climate emergency/the environment – Other Agencies

“Repression of climate and environmental protest is intensifying across the world”

https://theconversation.com/repression-of-climate-and-environmental-protest-is-intensifying-across-the-world-246379?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%2023%202024%20-%203211232757&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%2023%202024%20-%203211232757+CID_00dd8f87735cea8a1fb2de2dafd8f336&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Repression%20of%20climate%20and%20environmental%20protest%20is%20intensifying%20across%20the%20world

(Source: *The Conversation*, 24 Dec 2024)

Grim article ... worth reading.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“No end in sight for living standards crisis: JRF’s cost of living tracker, winter 2024”

https://www.jrf.org.uk/cost-of-living/jrfs-cost-of-living-tracker-winter-2024?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&utm_id=1391701_201224_Newsletter_December%202024&utm_campaign=1391701_201224_Newsletter_December%202024&dm_i=7ADY,TTUD,1R494R,422C4,1

(Source: *JRF Newsletter*, 20 Dec 2024)

New from JRF:

“[...] the 7th wave of our cost of living tracker captured the experiences of low-income households in the UK. Collected between 8 and 31 October, surveying 4,065 households in the bottom 40% of incomes, our key measures of hardship remain entirely unchanged from 6 months ago, despite some key economic conditions easing. We find in October 2024 [...]:

- 7 million low-income households (60%) were going without the essentials in the previous 6 months, including 5.4 million experiencing food insecurity in the previous 30 days
- 4.3 million low-income households (37%) were in arrears on at least one household bill or credit commitment.”

JRF have also just published:

“Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani households at higher risk of very deep, long-term poverty”

https://www.jrf.org.uk/race-and-ethnicity/bangladeshi-black-african-pakistani-households-higher-risk-of-very-deep-poverty?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&utm_id=1391701_201224_Newsletter_December%202024&utm_campaign=1391701_201224_Newsletter_December%202024&utm_i=7ADY,TTUD,1R494R,422C4,1

“People in Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani households are all around 3 times more likely to move into very deep poverty each year [...], with incomes far below the poverty line, compared to people in white households. In addition, they are at least 4 times more likely to experience persistent very deep poverty – that is very deep poverty in at least 3 years out of 4. About a third of people in Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani households also experience very deep poverty in 1 or 2 years out of 4.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Historic England Workforce Diversity Survey

Full report: <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/services-skills/historic-england-workforce-diversity-survey-2024/>

Summary: <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/services-skills/historic-england-workforce-diversity-survey-2024-executive-summary/>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 20 Dec 2024)

Important new research report:

“The heritage sector has not been routinely or systematically audited for diversity, meaning it is challenging to analyse demographics and identify gaps in representation.” [Summary, p1]

Historic England commissioned a survey earlier in 2024, headline results include:

- “90% of the workforce describe themselves as White, with no respondents in the 'higher managerial' category describing their ethnicity as Black
- 67% of the sector have a full-time, permanent contract, but this drops to 50% of disabled people
- Almost 20% of the workforce identified themselves as disabled, and 25% identified themselves as neurodivergent

- Less than 10% of respondents had a parent or caregiver who worked a routine or semi-routine manual and service occupation, suggesting social mobility is low in the sector” [Summary, p2]

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“Equity, diversity and inclusion”

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/keywords/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-0>

(Source: email from *THE Campus*, 14 Nov 2024)

“What do equity, diversity and inclusion mean in the higher education context? Academics explore how EDI issues should shape universities’ teaching, culture and management”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/health-and-wellbeing/#msdyntrid=-y81QSM7xmVJPs-ixQL1xsg_rEcR-2m2c9sVRVMTRfs

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 10 Dec 2024)

“We’re delighted to announce the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund, a £1.5m, three-year programme of grant-making, networking and learning dissemination for health and wellbeing programmes in museums. The programme is funded by the Julia Rausing Trust [...]

Please look out for full information on the fund in spring 2025, with funds to be awarded in two rounds in 2025 and 2026.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

The right to health in the UK

https://justfair.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/JustFair_RIGHT-TO-HEALTH.pdf

(Source: email from Just Fair, 10 Dec 2024)

New report from Just Fair, which “[...] proposes that the right to health must be at the centre of law and policy to create a healthier, fairer and more just society.” [Taken from email]

Disability issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Social Model of Disability”

https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture/diversity/social-model-disability?_cldee=R4P2QS8CpRoHeYm8MZUp0yXwLIQleEQ3awWcbhajQx9bFoJ3JITUGmgSfnbuPIE_&recipientid=contact-a4733678e9aee511937a005056915655-8eea07bc78124d4eaa073db8e4ecfc48&esid=057f3454-b4bb-ef11-a72f-000d3ad67adc#t-in-page-nav-1

(Source: Arts Council update, 19 Dec 2024)

Earlier this year, ACE formally adopted the Social Model of Disability across their work, and their commitment – and the Statement – have been published.

“All In”

https://allin.online/?_cldee=R4P2QS8CpRoHeYm8MZUp0yXwLIQleEQ3awWcbhajQx9bFoJ3JITUGmgSnfbuPIE_&recipientid=contact-a4733678e9aee511937a005056915655-8eea07bc78124d4eaa073db8e4ecfc48&esid=057f3454-b4bb-ef11-a72f-000d3ad67adc

(Source: Arts Council update, 19 Dec 2024)

“Earlier this month, [All In](#) launched its pilot programme. The first four organisations to test the scheme are [Leeds Heritage Theatres](#), [Leeds Museums and Galleries](#), [Leeds Playhouse](#), and [Opera North](#).

Representing a diverse range of artforms across theatre, museums, heritage, opera and art, these organisations will allow the scheme to be tested across a range of different venues and creative outputs.

The pilot will run for eight months through to summer 2025, laying the groundwork for expansion across West Yorkshire before a national roll out in the second half of 2025.” [Taken from ACE update]

Migration issues – News

“Deportations reach five-year high despite concerns of rights groups”

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/dec/15/deportations-reach-five-year-high-despite-concerns-of-rights-groups>

(Source: email from Praxis, 20 Dec 2024)

Just in case you missed this *Guardian* story:

“The government has announced that it has deported almost 13,500 people since coming to power, something ministers say proves their tough approach towards migrants but which human rights campaigners have warned could put lives at risk.

The government says it is on track to deliver the highest number of returns for five years and includes the four biggest return flights ever.”

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations: Libraries of Sanctuary

“Library first to win Sanctuary Award” [Ireland]

<https://dublingazette.com/whats-on/events/balbriggan-library-fingal-55533/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 15 Dec 2024)

“Balbriggan Library has been awarded a Library of Sanctuary by Places of Sanctuary Ireland, making Fingal the first local authority in Dublin to receive this award [...]”

“Pages of Identity launches at Eccles library with a collection of Arabic literature”

<https://salfordnow.co.uk/2024/12/06/pages-of-identity-launches-at-eccles-library-with-a-collection-of-arabic-literature/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 7 Dec 2024)

“Pages of Identity is a new book collection across both Eccles and Pendleton library focusing on the Arabic language with a collaboration between the Yemeni community association and Salford Community Libraries of Salford.

The collection hopes to bring the Muslim community into the library and discovering the voices stories and culture of Arab men and women from across the world.

These books have been specifically curated by Salford libraries in a partnership with the Yemeni Community Association. The books are available from both sites but you have to be a member of the library to borrow them.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Summary of latest statistics”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-september-2024/summary-of-latest-statistics>

(Source: West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership *Newsletter*, Dec 2024)

Useful summary of the current position:

“This Accredited Official Statistics publication provides comprehensive statistics on the operation of the UK immigration system. This summary chapter provides a brief overview, with a selection of key statistics from the full report.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“What it’s really like to be ‘rescued’ from modern slavery”

https://theconversation.com/what-its-really-like-to-be-rescued-from-modern-slavery-243291?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%206%202024%20-%203192132553&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%206%202024%20-%203192132553+CID_61fd3ddfa006e43ead1b60b35197e522&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=What%20its%20really%20like%20to%20be%20rescued%20from%20modern%20slavery

(Source: *The Conversation*, 9 Dec 2024)

Important article:

“When someone is in trouble, the hope is that they will be rescued. From Shakespeare to Superheroes, the story has been the same for centuries [...]

But rescues are not always the happy endings they are made out to be. The reality is far more complicated [...]

My research in India shows that being ‘rescued’ in no way guarantees freedom. Many of the people I spoke with had been forced to return to the exploitative working conditions that they had supposedly been freed from.”

The research article referred to is at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00380261241274886>.

“Initiatives to support Palestinian students, academics and universities”

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWjNxOObcKzqJC5XaXrr9u5Zm4HturzCnOEV0OH51noMSQYA/viewform?pli=1>

(Source: email from Aleks Palanac to Universities of Sanctuary, sanctuary@jiscmail.ac.uk, 11 Nov 2024)

Regularly-updated list of initiatives, compiled by Aleks Palanac (University of Leicester).

Transforming asylum accommodation

https://ippr-org.files.svdcdn.com/production/Downloads/Transforming_asylum_accommodation_October24_2024-10-23-110312_uryd.pdf

(Source: IPPR *The Progressive Insider*, 31 Oct 2024)

“This report calls for an end to the ineffective use of resources on unsuitable accommodation and proposes a reimagined approach to asylum housing. Building on initial moves by the new government to address the asylum backlog and close problematic sites, this vision focuses on providing safe, suitable housing that supports mental health, enhances community cohesion, and offers better value for money.” [p6]

“Hostile environment beyond borders: Franco-British immigration policy”

https://irr.org.uk/article/hostile-environment-beyond-borders-franco-british-immigration-policy/?ml_sub=2603139902296037194&ml_sub_hash=m4v4&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=chris_kaba_the_struggle_for_police_accountability_continues&utm_term=2024-12-23

(Source: *IRR News*, 31 Oct 2024)

Apologies for being slow to mention this – a really interesting analysis of the impact on policy of changes in French and UK governments.

The article concludes:

“Britain and France offer useful mirrors to each other to help us understand how liberalism paves the way to fascism. In France, the self-labelled centrist Macron, who won the presidential elections twice to block Marine Le Pen, directly invited members of the (far) Right to form a government despite a third of the French electorate voting for the left-wing coalition. In Britain, Starmer’s Labour has largely unquestioningly adopted Conservative immigration policy and Reform-adjacent positions – in some cases going even further, as with this summer’s raid blitz.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Warsaw Non-Profit Opens First Museum of Queer History in Poland”

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/warsaw-non-profit-opens-first-museum-of-queer-history-in-poland-1234726567/?ref=wearequeer.af.com>

(Source: email from Queer AF, 14 Dec 2024)

“On Friday [9 Dec], Poland inaugurated its first museum dedicated to LGBTQ history, a milestone in a country where legal recognition for gay rights remains limited. Located in Warsaw on Marszalkowska Street, the museum was founded by Lambda, a Polish nonprofit rights organization

that has also worked extensively in recent years with queer refugees arriving into the country.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Statement in response to the continued criminal ban on puberty blockers”

<https://galop.org.uk/news/statement-in-response-to-the-continued-criminal-ban-on-puberty-blockers/>

Statement from GALOP on behalf of a number of key organisations:

“As LGBTQ+ sector organisations, we are deeply disappointed that the UK Government has decided to continue criminalising the prescription of puberty suppressing medicines for trans children and young people outside of a proposed NHS research study.

Every single child and young person, across all nations of the UK, should be able to get the care that they need to grow up happy and healthy. To be supported by well trained, knowledgeable professionals who can make the right decisions with them, and who have access to appropriate medical treatments. To not have to wait too long or travel too far. And right now, that simply isn’t what’s happening for trans and gender diverse children and young people across the UK. This decision will not make things better.

The Government is entirely disregarding the voices of trans youth, who made clear their deep opposition to the restriction of private prescriptions for puberty blockers during consultation. This is particularly concerning given the lack of information about the proposed study and concerns raised about it by the Council of Europe.”

LGBT+ welfare and assets in Great Britain

Webpage with summaries and links to other resources:

<https://lgbtqwelfare.stir.ac.uk/>

Full report: <https://lgbtqwelfare.stir.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LGBT-Welfare-and-Assets-in-Great-Britain-Main-Public-Output.pdf>

Policy briefing: <https://lgbtqwelfare.stir.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LGBT-welfare-and-assets-briefing.pdf>

(Source: email from Peter Matthews to lgbtq@jiscmail.ac.uk, 6 Nov 2024)

“The LGBT+ Welfare and Assets in Great Britain project was the first major research project to seek to understand the experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans- people accessing social security benefits in Great Britain.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Literacy teaching and school events calendar 2024-2025”

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/literacy-teaching-calendar/>

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Training & Resources*, 19 Dec 2024)

Very useful info about events & celebrations.